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The sixth chapter contains an interesting discussion of religion and ideals in America. There is not space to describe his views here, but merely to explain that he thinks the Americans lack inspiration in their religion, which has rather an ethical and practical, than a theological and imaginative, character.

The last chapter is devoted to imperialism and the Constitution, and in it he points out that the desire of expansion is not new in America, but is the outcome of a policy followed constantly for more than a century, and has its foundations in the most undoubted traditions of the American spirit. Hence, he believes it will not upset the institutions and traditions of the country, because in its essence it is not inconsistent with them.

A. L. LOWELL.

Japan: Its History, Arts and Literature. By Captain F. BRINKLEY. [Oriental Series.] (Boston and Tokyo: J. B. Millet Co. 1901. Vols. I.-VI., pp. 260; 286; 256; 267; 260; 301.)

UNTIL the Japanese write scientific history, we must rely upon those foreigners, who to mastery of the sources add industry and insight, for an intelligible picture of Japanese life in the past. While it is unsafe for a native at home to dissect ancient legends, the alien has free play. Happily we have here the work of one who began thirty-five years ago, in Japan, to acquire the language, striving to interpret the life around him by a knowledge of origins. These six volumes from his pen, to be followed by six more, form probably the best work that could at the present time be produced. To the three names, all of Englishmen, who are the "great lights of Japanese scholarship" to whom Captain Brinkley dedicates his work, we may justly add his own. Though subordinate to artistic features, Japanese history is here quite fully treated both with power and insight in this sumptuously illustrated work, which is to be completed in twelve volumes. Except some general notes in the appendix to each volume, there are no references to authorities. In so far the work lacks that guarantee, which the exacting critic demands. However, with the general lack of knowledge of original Japanese sources among Occidental readers, it is hard to see how references could be supplied, especially in a work like this. Those who know the author's breadth and depth of scholarship and the saturation of his mind with Japanese ideas, as well as his cosmopolitan experience and acquaintance with modern critical methods, can read these volumes with satisfaction. Not that Captain Brinkley is infallible, for on American references and illustrations, we find ourselves compelled to make allowance occasionally for parallax. There are not a few places, also, in which he ought to have given us exact translations of important brief documents or passages. Furthermore, as history, the work is seriously lacking in not allowing for that continuous fertilization of the Japanese mind through contact with Europeans, and the continuous infiltration of Occidental ideas through the Dutch, in which was scarcely an intermission for nearly three centuries. Even before the arrival of Perry these had produced a small army

of physicians, critical inquirers and men hungry for more knowledge from the west. Nor is any allowance made for the influence of ideas derived from the work of Iberian missionaries during eighty years, which certainly modified powerfully the Shinto and Buddhist sects, besides keeping up continuously a subterranean history of Christianity in the islands. Yet on the whole we know of no other writer in any country who could have woven this history with such richness, color and accuracy. Moreover the pages show the practised pen of the veteran editor of *The Japan Mail*.

The author's method is first to get behind the looking-glass of popular Japanese tradition (which has served so handsomely as the age-old political engine for unifying the nation and restoring the imperial power, yet furnishing withal a motor for modern progress) and then to step out into the modern world of scholarship and tell what he has found. Until the fourth century the Japanese were without letters or almanacs. Their two most ancient books, written respectively A.D. 712 and A.D. 720, while containing material for history, are mostly compilations of myths and traditions. The *Kojiki* in pure Japanese is an artless narrative. The *Nihongi* is woven together with Chinese philosophy and classic quotation—or plagiarism. Captain Brinkley's conclusion, in harmony with that of probably every critical scholar, is that "among many borrowings made by Japan from China, the idea of her 'age of Gods' has to be included." In a word the earlier historiography of the island empire is largely a reflection of models borrowed from China. The rise to power of the house or clan, of which the chief was called the Mikado, and the fluctuations of his measure of power constitutes in epitome Japanese history. Chinese arts and letters were the first influences making for culture, but Buddhism was the great civilizing, centralizing and unifying influences. The author's clear demarcation of each epoch—prehistoric, early historic, Nara, Hei-an or Kioto, the military, the Tokugawa—and his keen appreciations of each feature and influence are delightful to the scholar. Epitomizing the social, moral and legal aspects of the Yedo epoch (1604–1868), which of all is best known to foreigners, he surveys rapidly the era of Meiji, or enlightened government, that is, the reign of the present Emperor (1868–1902 +). He then opens before us the financial and economic conditions, foreign politics, steps of progress, creed and caste, religion and rites, and superstition, closing with descriptions of the festal and ceremonial side of life and the history of foreign commerce.

One is impressed in reading this story of Japan with the resourceful power of the Japanese, with their originality, and their ability to make much out of little,—whether in the way of enjoyment or of business, or of equipping themselves for modern struggle and the challenges of the future. Confucianism, Buddhism and Bushido (the school of the knight) have been the great culture elements. Chivalry in the Samurai and their wonderful arts, from which the whole world now gladly learns, are the consummate flowers of their genius.

Volume VI. contains an analytical index of the whole work as thus

far issued, together with a large colored map showing the old empire with the modern railway routes and also the newer possessions of Formosa and the Kurile Islands. In the list of emperors, of whom one hundred and twenty-three are counted, the earlier are noted as legendary, the first seventeen being extraordinarily long lived and purely mythical. The dates of the reign and relation of each ruler to his successor are given, together with a list of the shoguns and a table of dates with list of gods and goddesses and celebrated characters in Japanese history. Three volumes on the arts of Japan especially indexed and three on the history and arts of China from the same author are to follow.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT GRIFFIS.

Historical Sources in Schools; Report to the New England History Teachers' Association by a Select Committee. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1902, pp. ix, 299.) This in a degree is a companion volume to the *Report of the Committee of Seven* which appeared three years ago; it is published by the same firm and in the same general form as the earlier report. In addition to a general introduction on the use of sources in the schools, a list of accessible sources covering the field of history is given, with valuable comments on the character and usefulness of the material in question. The committee follows the division recommended by the Committee of Seven, and has consequently made a general grouping under the four heads: Ancient History; Medieval and Modern European History; English History; American History.

Concerning the extent to which sources can be used, the report fortunately takes the middle ground, it does not advocate abandoning the use of a text and studying from the sources alone in the secondary schools. Probably few teachers believe that pupils can be taught successfully without the use of a text-book. But there are a great many still in existence who think that sources cannot be used at all; such teachers ought, in fairness to their pupils and their profession, to ponder the introductory pages of this volume and remember that, if they are intent not simply on cramming boys for entrance examinations but on fitting them for life, they are losing opportunity for making their subject really a thing of living interest. The book may also be commended to those—erstwhile known as teachers of history—who do not quite know what sources are, in other words are ignorant of the essential character of the subject they profess to teach.

A great deal of hard work has been expended in the preparation of this volume, and the labor will not be lost. That the comparatively untrained teacher may be overwhelmed by the wealth of suggestion is certainly quite likely; and perhaps even farther discrimination should have been made between what is of possible service and what is vivid, direct and positively helpful. To discourage and burden a pupil by unintelligent reference to a document beyond his thoughtful comprehension, is apt to be a very dangerous error. But after all, must books forever be made for untrained teachers who must make the acquaintance of the tools of their trade after they begin active practice?